Cultivation of Soya Bean and Mulberry.

443. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps to popularise the cultivation of (1) soya bean and (2) mulberry in the State and if so, what are they?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, by demonstrating the cultivation in the departmental Experimental Farms, by distributing seeds and cuttings free among agriculturists and also by advising them on the advantages of this cultivation.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether the climatic conditions of north Travancore are suitable for mulberry cultivation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Was there not a mulberry plantation at Nedumangad?

PRESIDENT: Yes. Some years ago.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Was it abolished with the advice of the Agricultural Department?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I do not know; it is a matter of ancient history.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Formerly, we had the competition of Japan which practically made cultivation of mulberry and the production of silk uneconomic, because they dumped silk upon India. But, just now, as evidenced by Kashmere and Mysore, mulberry cultivation and silk are very likely to be profitable in view of the defeat of Italy and the change in the situation with Japan who were our only international competitors.

Agricultural Farm.

444. *MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the extent of the Government agricultural farm (cocoanut garden) at Oachira;

(*b*) the number of trees:

(*c*) the yield per year; and

(*d*) the money spent for the maintenance?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) 4 acres 19 cents.

(*b*) 223.

(*c*) 8,232 nuts during 1119,

(*d*) Rs. 440 Chs. 22 C. 0 during 1119.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the trees in the farm are better than those in the locality.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I take it that the income from an acre of cocoanut garden is only 100 rupees per year?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Out of 290 and odd trees about 223 trees are bearing and compared to the yield in the areas surrounding this farm, the yield can certainly be said to be good.

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